

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 02887.0144-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Takaaki MURATA et al.) Group Art Unit: 1711
)
Application No.: 09/899,929) Examiner: Tran, Thao T.
)
Filed: July 9, 2001)
)
For: OZONIZING UNIT, OZONE)
GENERATOR AND OZONE-)
PROCESSING SYSTEM)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF
DECEMBER 19, 2003 INTERVIEW WITH EXAMINER**

Applicants' undersigned representative scheduled and conducted an interview with the Examiner on December 19, 2003, and the Examiner mailed an Interview Summary form for this interview on January 5, 2004. Applicants again thank the Examiner for participating in the interview. Since Applicants submitted a response to the Final Office Action dated June 26, 2003 on October 24, 2003 and a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) on November 26, 2003, Applicants file the following statement which sets forth the substance of the interview conducted on December 19th. M.P.E.P. § 713.04, ed. 8, rev. 1 (Feb. 2003).

During the interview, Applicants' representative presented arguments as to why the instant claims 36-44 are not anticipated by Miyagawa, U.S. Patent No. 4,626,876 ("Miyagawa"), which was cited in a 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection in the June 26th Final Office Action.

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Specifically, Applicants' representative pointed out that Miyagawa teaches two electrodes 2 and 3 formed on top of a plate and a single electrode 5 formed on the bottom, but that neither electrodes 2 or 3 are connected to electrode 5. Thus, Applicants' representative asserted Miyagawa does not teach at least a back electrode formed on another surface of a dielectric substrate from a hot electrode so that a voltage is applied across the hot electrode and the back electrode to produce surface discharge on one surface of the dielectric substrate. Further, Applicants' representative pointed out that an implementation of the invention, including a hot electrode, stray electrode, and back electrode, as recited in the claims, would produce potential fields, which differ from those of Miyagawa, as illustrated in Exhibit A included with the Response filed on October 24, 2003.

The Examiner's position was that Miyagawa illustrates the front and back electrodes as recited in the claims. Thus, an agreement was not reached between Applicants' representative and the Examiner.

Applicants' representative also discussed other dependent claims which recite the configuration and shape of the electrodes. The Examiner, however, alleged that these claims were also not patentable. Specifically, in support of her allegations that the shape and configuration of electrodes would have been obvious (Final Office Action at 5-6), the Examiner pointed to Chang, U.S. Patent No. 5,304,486 ("Chang") and alleged that this reference teaches electrodes formed of different configurations. Thus, an agreement was not reached between Applicants' representative and the Examiner.

Although no agreement was reached, Applicants still dispute the Examiner's position for at least the reasons presented during the interview. Should the Examiner present this portion in a

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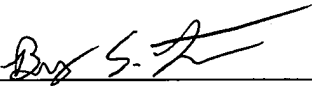
future Office Action, Applicants reserve the right to present the arguments discussed during the interview, as well as other arguments demonstrating patentability of the claims, in their response.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this statement and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 5, 2004

By: 
Bryan S. Latham
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